
Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

State of California
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

June 15, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Zoom Video and Teleconference Meeting Only

Archived audio and video webcasts of Board meetings are available at the following link:
<https://cal-span.org/static/meetings-RWQCB-CC.php>

Board Member Roll Call and Introductions

Nancy Wright, Jayne Powell, Ed Muzik, Peter Satin, Beatriz Gonzalez, and Vivian Perez were in attendance. The Board Clerk stated that a quorum was present.

The virtual meeting via Zoom was called to order by Board Chair Nancy Wright at 9:00 a.m. on June 15, 2021.

State and Regional Water Board Staff Present

Paula Rasmussen, Cassandra Owens, Katharine Buddingh, Mary Castaneda, CJ Jasieniecki, Dan Mefford, Adriana Godinez, Hilda Vasquez, Scot Stormo, Carlos Angulo, Zak Owens, Jose Cortez, Jose Valle DeLeon, Kai Dunn, Maria Davydova-Flores, and Nadim Shukry-Zeywar.

Virtual Public Attendance

Jennifer Bertz, Walmart Stores, Inc.
Scot Huismann, Walmart Stores, Inc.
Steven Mireles, City of Brawley
Melissa Brown, Rio Bend RV & Golf Resort
Ray Farris, Rio Bend RV & Golf Resort
Rubi Pagan, Rio Bend RV & Golf Resort
Ruben Zavala, Rio Bend RV & Golf Resort
Jane Soule, Geosyntec Consultants
Jonathon Kirby, Mesa Wind Power Corporation

NANCY WRIGHT, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Gwen Atherton, Coachella Valley Water Keeper
Paul Peschel, Hi-Desert Water District

Public Forum

Daniela Uribe, a La Quinta High School student, provided a Salton Sea video she created as part of a Senior project that was the chosen as frontrunner out of the Senior Class Projects submitted. The Board Members thanked Daniela for sharing her video and applauded her for her excellent work. They wished her well in her future studies.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of May 11, 2021 Board Meeting.

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aya, Vivian Perez – Aye.

The motion was carried to adopt the minutes of the May 11, 2021 Board meeting.

Uncontested Items

2. R7-2021-0012 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for County of San Bernardino Solid Waste Management Division, Needles Sanitary Landfill, Needles, San Bernardino County [*Scot Stormo, EG*]

* Item 2 was removed from the Uncontested Items calendar by Chair Wright and was voted on separately after a brief discussion.

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Peter Satin seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Vivian Perez – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye.

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0012.

3. R7-2021-0039 – Consideration of adoption of Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2012-0003 for Walmart Stores, Inc., Store 1915-04 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County [*Adriana Godinez, WRCE*]

Motion: Jayne Powell moved, Peter Satin seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Vivian Perez – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye.

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0039 as proposed.

4. R7-2021-0005 – Consideration of adoption of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Brawley, Brawley Wastewater Treatment Plant, Brawley, Imperial County [Jose Valle DeLeon, WRCE]

Motion: Jayne Powell moved, Peter Satin seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Vivian Perez – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye.

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0005 as proposed.

5. R7-2021-0024 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Westwind Enterprises, LTD., Rio Bend RV and Golf Resort Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems, El Centro, Imperial County [*Carlos Angulo, WRCE*]

* Item 5 was removed from the Uncontested Items calendar by Chair Wright and was voted on separately after a brief discussion.

Motion: Ed Muzik moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Vivian Perez – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye.

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0024 with changes as identified in the verbal Errata.

6. R7-2021-0026 - Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Imperial County Department of Public Works, Hot Spa Waste Management Facility, Niland, Imperial County [*Zak Owens, EG*]

Motion: Jayne Powell moved, Peter Satin seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Vivian Perez – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye.

The motion was carried unanimously to adopt Order R7-2021-0026 as proposed.

Contested and Discussion Items

7. R7-2021-0017 – Consideration of adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters of the State issued to Mesa Wind Power Corporation, Mesa Wind Repower Project, Palm Springs, Riverside County [*Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE*]

**Board Member Peter Satin recused himself from Item #7*

Kai Dunn, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer, gave a presentation on the proposed repowering of the existing Mesa Wind Project through the replacement and upgrade of the wind energy generation equipment and facilities. He outlined the project

impacts on ephemeral washes that drain to Cottonwood Creek and the Whitewater River channel. He indicated that the Discharger proposes to purchase habitat preservation credits from a mitigation bank to compensate for permanent impacts to waters of the state.

Motion: Jayne Powell moved, Vivian Perez seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Ed Muzik – Aye, Vivian Perez – Aye, Peter Satin – Recused.

The motion was carried to adopt Order R7-2021-0017 as proposed.

**Board Member Peter Satin rejoined the meeting.*

8. R7-2021-0028 – Consideration of adoption of Resolution Adopting an Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region to Revise the Septic Tank Prohibition for the Town of Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County [*Maria Davydova-Flores, ES*]

**Board Member Ed Muzik recused himself from Item #8.*

Maria Davydova-Flores, Environmental Scientist, provided an overview of the proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region to revise the Yucca Valley Septic Tank Prohibition. The presentation included key changes to the Prohibition that are proposed under the Amendment, as well as a summary of responses to comments received during the 45-day comment period. Oral comments were received from the speakers, and based on the discussion with Regional Water Board staff and the Board, Ms. Davydova-Flores proposed changes to the Amendment, which were incorporated as verbal Errata.

Speakers: Gwen Atherton, Coachella Valley Water Keeper
Paul Peschel, Hi-Desert Water District

Motion: Peter Satin moved, Jayne Powell seconded, and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Nancy Wright – Aye, Jayne Powell – Aye, Beatriz Gonzalez – Aye, Ed Muzik – Recused, Vivian Perez – Aye, Peter Satin – Aye.

The motion was carried to adopt Resolution R7-2021-0028 with changes identified in the verbal Errata and written Response to Comments.

**Board member Ed Muzik rejoined the meeting.*

Informational Items

9. Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer's Report [*Paula Rasmussen, EO*]
 - There have been no changes on the return to work status for staff as per the pandemic.

- A new Executive Order was released on June 11, 2021 which continues the use of virtual meetings through September 30, 2021. Hybrid versions of in-person/remote public participation will be evaluated for future meetings.
- On May 13, 2021, staff issued Riverside County Department of Facilities Management an Investigative Order to conduct post-closure monitoring reporting for pesticide impacts at the Thermal Airport (Phan Le, WRCE).
- On June 6, 2021, a Public Notice was provided for an Underground Storage Tank closure for the former One-Stop property in Blythe, which meets the provisions of the Low Threat Closure Policy. Comments are due on August 2, 2021 (Phan Le, WRCE).
- Regional Water Board staff participated in a virtual meeting with California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) regarding the Salton Sea. Staff continues to coordinate with CNRA staff on upcoming new permit submittals. Staff was provided notice that work has begun on digging a diversion channel for the New River for the Salton Sea Conservation Habitat Project.
- An update on the Salton Sea will be provided by CNRA at an upcoming Board meeting.

10. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

There were no comments from the Board Members.

11. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report

Chair Wright reported that the Water Quality Coordinating Committee is scheduled for October 21 & 22, 2021. The meeting will be held in-person and remotely. She stated that on July 7, 2021, the State Water Board will have a workshop on the Racial Equity draft report, which will be approved in mid-August 2021.

Closed Session

12. There was no closed session held.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.